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WIRRAL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1902.

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1903.

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With the Medical Officer of Health's Compliments.

1902.

To the Wirral Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as follows:

The population of the Wirral Rural District at the middle of 1892 is estimated at 14517. The corresponding area at the census of 1901 (*i.e.* excluding the township of Whitby) had a population of 14017, since which at least 100 newly built houses have come into occupation.

Whitby became a separate District on the 1st of April, but in this Report the Statistics of this township are excluded as from the 1st of January, to make the Report more useful for comparison.

The Births registered during the year 1902 in the District number 380, being at the rate of 26·2 per 1000 persons living in the District. This is exactly the average Birth-rate of the administrative County of Cheshire for the previous year, the latest for which statistics for comparison are available (as per Report Medical Officer of Health, County Council). The average Birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for that year was 28·5

The Deaths of persons belonging the District as now constituted, during 1902, number 168. This is at the rate of 11·6 per 1000 persons living in the District. It is a low Death-rate. The average Death-rate for the County of the previous year was 15·6, and of the whole of England and Wales was 16 9. The percentage of Deaths in the District during 1902, under one year of age to Births registered is 7·9. This is a very low rate. The average for the County of the previous year, being 15, and of all England and Wales 15·1.

The Birth and Death-rates are lower than the average for the District of the previous nine years.

The Deaths include 1 from Scarlet Fever, 6 from Whooping Cough, 1 from Diphtheria, 1 from Influenza, 4 from Diarrhœa or Enteritis, 18 from Phthisis, 4 from other Tubercular Diseases, 9 from Cancer, 27 from Bronchitis or Pneumonia, 2 from Alcoholism or Cirrhosis of the Liver, 6 from Premature Birth, 19 from Heart Diseases, and 7 from Accidents.

Under the Notification Act were reported 7 cases of Diptheria, 5 of Erysipelas, 24 of Scarlet Fever, and 5 of Typhoid Fever. Of these 4 cases of Diphtheria, 8 of Scarlet Fever, and 1 of Typhoid Fever, were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Clatterbridge.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered

over 14 Townships; each of the cases of Typhoid Fever occurred in different and distant Townships. The cases occurred mostly at different periods of the year. There has been little or no local spread of infection outside infected houses, and only three occasions when there have been subsequent cases within the family.

The houses where Infectious Disease has occurred have been visited, removal to Hospital offered, disinfectants supplied when required, warnings against spreading infection given, children in infected houses kept from school, and removal of insanitary conditions attended to.

The Fever Isolation Hospital of the Joint Hospital Board is situated in this District; it has been considerably enlarged and improved during the year. For this purpose two additional acres of land have been acquired. Two new wards of 8 beds each, and 2 isolation wards to hold 2 beds each, with kitchen and lavatories, have been built; and 3 bedrooms and a lavatory have been added to the Administration Block. The Laundry has been enlarged and better equipped. A new Disinfecting Stove has been erected, and also a Destructor. Two covered Vans are being built for the carriage of Infected and Disinfected articles from and to houses in the Joint District. There are two Ambulances for the conveyance of patients.

I have visited the District from time to time,

and have advised on various details in connection with the ordinary sanitary work of the District, and also in connection with the various Sewerage Schemes which are in progress or preparation.

The Sewerage of Little Sutton has been completed during the year, the house connections have been made, and 37 privies converted into water closets consequent thereon.

The Local Government Board have sanctioned a loan of £27500 for the purpose of carrying out the Fender Valley Sewerage. Tenders for the work have been received and are now under consideration.

To meet the views of the Local Government Board, fresh schemes have been prepared by your Engineers, Messrs. Beloe and Priest, for the sewerage of Childer Thornton, Eastham, and Hooton, and the application for the sanction for the necessary loans is now being prepared. A similar application is now about to be made for a scheme for Great Sutton. Schemes have also been prepared for the sewerage of Willaston, Greasby, and Frankby.

The Dibdin Sewage Filter at the Fever Hospital has continued to work satisfactorily,

The District is chiefly supplied with water from the West Cheshire Waterworks, Bidston-with-Ford and Noctorum are supplied from the Birkenhead Waterworks, and Moreton and

Saughall Massie from the West Kirby Water-Works, all deriving their supply from deep wells.

The Council contract for the removal of privy and ashpit refuse in the townships of Eastham, Childer Thornton, Little Sutton, Heswall, Upton, and Prenton.

Mr. Wallis, your inspector, continues to give great attention to his duties. These have embraced, in addition to the more ordinary sanitary work, the inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies to the number of 246, and also the care of the sewers, with assistance, and the flushing thereof, at Eastham, Childer Thornton, Heswall and Upton.

Mr. Wallis further reports that 61 complaints have been received during the year, 1560 houses, premises, &c., inspected, 392 re-inspected, 169 notices issued for sanitary amendments of houses and premises, 34 houses, premises, &c., cleansed, repaired or whitewashed, 3 cases of overcrowding remedied, 34 houses disinfected after infectious disease, 85 house drains repaired, cleansed, trapped, &c., 85 ventilated, 65 privies repaired, &c., 37 privies converted into water closets as previously mentioned, 4 new provided, 43 canal boats inspected (prior to the separation of the township of Whitby, which includes Ellesmere Port), 2 cisterns cleansed or repaired, one waste-pipe connected with drains abolished,

6 accumulations of dung or other animal refuse removed, 4 bakehouses and 8 slaughterhouses inspected.

Building Byelaws are in force throughout the District, and Mr. W. Webb Shennan is Surveyor to see that they are carried out. He reports that the number of plans passed during the year 1902 was 203, of which 157 have been for new houses and 46 for alterations and additions. He has had no prosecution during the year.

Mr. Shennan is also Inspector under the Factory and Workships Act, and reports that five workshops or work places have been inspected. These include one Builder's yard, one Coachbuilder's premises, two Confectioners, and one Dressmaker. The ventilation and drainage were found satisfactory except in one case, which is having attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. KENYON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chester,
February 25th, 1903.